



Public Involvement

Public involvement is a key component of determining a national trail and assessing its feasibility. Issues, opportunities, and concerns are identified and data is gathered through this aspect of the study effort. The National Park Service and LDR will be holding several public forums throughout this study process at locations along the trail. The first public meetings, aimed at discussing the study process, goals and objectives, and the preliminary trail routes, will be held in early January in Baltimore, Washington DC, and Prince Frederick in Calvert County. These meetings are open to the public.

Please confirm these meeting times and locations and look for more information on the National Park Service Web site at www.nps.gov/chal/sp/jstarspan.htm or contact William Sharp at william_sharp@nps.gov or **215.597.1655**



National Park Service
Star Spangled Banner NHT
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Meetings

Wednesday, January 10, 2001, from 7-9pm
Ft. McHenry Visitor Center Auditorium
Baltimore, MD

Wednesday, January 17, 2001, from 5-7pm
HNTB Offices, 421 7th Street NW
Washington DC

Wednesday, January 24, 2001, from 6:30-8:30pm
Calvert County Public Library
Prince Frederick, MD



Star Spangled Banner
National Historic
Trail Study

Proposed Star Spangled Banner Trail Through Maryland and Washington Studied by National Park Service

The National Park Service, with the assistance of LDR International, Inc., an HNTB Company, of Columbia, Maryland, is studying the 1814 British Invasion of Maryland and Washington DC, and the American defense during the War of 1812. This newsletter briefly explains the legislative origins of this national trail, the study process that will be undertaken, and the preliminary route following major events. Through the National Park Service website and public forums, a dialogue between the planning team and interested parties will be maintained.

Along with the other national historic trails that have been designated throughout the United States, the Star Spangled Banner Trail is being considered because it reflects significant events in American History, including the only time the nation's capital was invaded by a foreign power. The trail designation provides opportunities for resource protection, active and passive interpretation, and public enjoyment.

The Study Process

This historic route is being considered for designation as a national historic trail and must meet certain legislative requirements to become an official trail in the National Trails System. Over the next year, the project team will assess trail alternatives and submit a Determination of Significance Statement to NPS. When trail route alternatives are developed, purpose and significance statements will be used to evaluate each alternative. Public participation will be encouraged through a series of meetings in the study area. (see back page for more information)

Under the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and Public Law 106-135, the National Park Service Advisory Board

will determine if the Star Spangled Banner Trail is nationally significant. If significance is determined, feasibility and management options, including federal management, will be considered. If the trail is determined not to be nationally significant, state and local management options will be considered.

What is a National Historic Trail?

A national historic trail is an extended trail that follows routes of travel that are historically and nationally significant. The trail must be significant with respect to any of several broad facets of American History, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns, and must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historical interpretation and appreciation. The trail need not be continuous and might include land and water segments, marked highways paralleling the route, and sites that together form a chain or network along the route.

The purpose and significance of each trail is determined to examine the unique characteristics of the trail. Purpose and significance statements help ensure that management, resource protection, visitor use, and trail development is in accordance with the NPS mandates: to protect and preserve resources and to provide for the enjoyment of those resources by people.

